25X1

CONFIDENTIAL

CENTRAL INTELLIGENCE AGENCY

INFORMATION REPORT

25X1

COUNTRY Latvia

SUBJECT Status of Veterinary Medicine

25X1

DATE DISTR. 8 APR 54

NO. OF PAGES 5

NO. OF ENCLS.

SUPP. TO REPORT NO.

THIS IS **UNEVALUATED** INFORMATION

25X1

1. 25X1 general conditions in the field of veterinary medicine in Latvia have not changed appreciably since 1944. We have not received information which would indicate the teaching facilities at the University of Latvia Veterinary School have been expanded, so we assume approximately the same 25X1 number of veterinarians are now active in Latvia as in 1944. In 1944 there were 29 veterinarians engaged in teaching and research; five in biological production; about 150 were working for the government and in private practice; 25 were food inspectors and 20 were in the Army. Latvian veterinarians are as well trained as any in Europe. Regulations and edicts outlining veterinary qualifications, duties and fields of activities are issued by the Ministry of Education, Minister of Agriculture and Minister of Defense.

2. veterinary supplies and equipment for teaching and treatment were obtained from local and European sources (Germany, France, 25X1 UK). The quality of this material was excellent and in sufficient quantity. We understand that current equipment and facilities are reaching pre-World War II levels with the exception of veterinary pharmaceuticals -- they are still in short supply. The largest veterinary clinics are located at the University of Latvia in Riga. These are housed on property of about two acres and are divided into large animal surgical clinics, large animal medical clinics and small animal clinics. There are fairly large veterinary clinics in Jelgava and Liepaja and smaller clinics in various localities where the animal population warrants clinical facilities.

3. Most all of the standard textbooks on veterinary medicine in German, French and English were available to the profession and we assume Soviet texts have been added since World War II. We do not know if the Acta Universitatis Latviensis, Veterinary Medical Service and The Journal of the Latvian

25X1

DISTRIBUTION →	STATE	X	ARMY (SGO)	X	NAVY (F-5)	X	AIR (SGO)	X	FBI		M/SI	EV	

Veterinary Medical Association are still being published. Until 1944 these journals were quite good. [redacted] also had the proceedings and reports of the Veterinary Medical Congress of the Baltic States and the proceedings and reports of the International Veterinary Medical Congresses. 25X1

4. In 1944 the faculty of the School of Veterinary Medicine at the University of Latvia was headed by Dean A Vitums. Following is a breakdown of the various departments and their personnel:

a. Anatomy:

A Vitums, (head of department)
P Ozolina
O Janovjkij
E Avota

b. Animal Husbandry:

P Lejins (head of department)
B Rudiks
L Plaude
M Grinbergs
A Smitmanis

c. Hygiene:

M Rolle (head of department)
J Dzelde
V Elkjnitij
V Kundzins
E Lujis

d. Pathological Anatomy:

R Grapmanis (head of department)
M Skudina
M Klavina
J Lasmanis

e. Large Animal Surgical Clinic:

A Alksnis (head of clinic)
K Hirjs
K Silgals
O Seisumi
O Blumfelds

f. Large Animal Medical Clinic:

P Apinis (head of clinic)
V Roga
M Lamstere
O Friedenberger

g. Small Animal Clinic:

K Kanops (head of clinic)
J Leimanis

5. The teaching staff for the subjects taught by other faculty members of the University of Latvia which were part of the required curriculum for veterinarians are as follows:

a. Department of Physiology (Faculty of Medicine)

R Krimbergs (head of department)
J Skuja

b. Department of Chemistry (Faculty of Chemistry)

O Luca
A Liepins
A Janiks

c. Department of Pharmacy (Faculty of Chemistry)

J Maizite
E Svirlovskis

d. Department of Zoology (Faculty of Natural Sciences)

N Lebedinsky
L Abolins
N Tranzehe

e. Department of Physics (Faculty of Natural Sciences)

F Gulbis
R Siksna

f. Department of Botany (Faculty of Natural Sciences)

N Malta
A Zamelij

6. Applicants for admission to the School of Veterinary Medicine were required to present a diploma from an approved high school. Since the number of applicants always exceed the available teaching space, competitive examinations were held to aid in the final selection. Approximately 25 students per year were accepted and some 15 to 20 graduated with a degree of veterinary surgeon (DVM) at the end of the five-year course. The School of Veterinary Medicine, being associated with the University of Latvia, received its financial support from the Minister of Education through the University. Some funds were forthcoming through various foundations, namely:

a. Kr Morberg Foundation
b. Humboldt Foundation
c. Latvian Research Foundation. This foundation [redacted] was established by the Latvian Government in 1935 to support research in Latvian institutions of higher learning.

25X1
25X1

7. Graduate training was also under the supervision of the School of Veterinary Medicine. In order to be eligible for training for the degree of Doctor of Veterinary Medicine (PhD) the graduate of veterinary medicine was required to present his DVM and to take a number of theoretical examinations. To obtain his PhD the student generally spends from three to six years completing his academic work and his dissertation covering original work in his specialized field.

8. The following animal diseases are known to exist in Latvia:

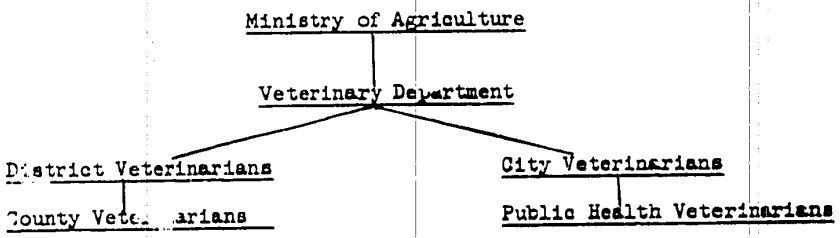
a. Tuberculosis (about two per cent of the susceptibe animal population)
b. Brucellosis
c. Erysipelas of swine
d. Infectious anemia of equines
e. Foot and mouth disease (sporadically)
f. Malignant head catarrh (sporadically)
g. Vesicular stomatitis (sporadically)
h. Anthrax (very seldom)
i. Piroplasmosis
j. Coccidiosis
k. Taeniasis
l. Ascaridiasis
m. Trichinosis (very seldom)
n. Distemper of dogs
o. Strangles of horse

9. The infectious or parasitic diseases that have been practically eradicated in Latvia are:

a. Foot and mouth disease
b. Glanders of horse
c. Anthrax
d. Rabies
e. Trichinosis

There have been no reports of unusual epizootics or noticeable incidents of animal diseases. Control is fairly easy to maintain because of the small herds on farms that are separately located. Dairy farmers are careful in the handling of their products and equipment. All milk cans are sterilized before refilling so that infections can be spotted immediately.

10. The organization of governmental agencies having authority over livestock disease control is broken down as follows:



In 1947 Dr J Vacietis was the director of the Veterinary Department and was the ultimate authority on livestock disease control. He was a graduate of the Faculty of Veterinary Medicine of the University of Latvia. All of the infectious and parasitic diseases mentioned below had to be reported by law:

a. Foot and mouth disease
b. Vesicular stomatitis
c. Anthrax
d. Glanders
e. Rabies
f. Brucellosis
g. Infectious anemia of equines
h. Mange

The county veterinarians had to report to the district veterinarians and the latter gave directives to the local police and reported to the Veterinary Department of the Ministry of Agriculture.

11. When an infectious or parasitic disease, as mentioned above, is reported, a quarantine is imposed on the farm or area involved. The infected animals are destroyed and the barns and equipment disinfected. The common diagnosis and laboratory examinations are made locally and then the materials are forwarded to the laboratory of the Veterinary Department in Riga. Immunization is used for swine erysipelas and Brucellosis. Most of the vaccines and sera used are prepared in the Serum Institute in Riga which is owned by the government but operated by the University of Latvia. The simultaneous method and swine erysipelas serums are used with good results. T G vaccine is used for Brucelloisis with satisfactory results. Animals infected with or exposed to foot and mouth disease are destroyed. Indemnity payments are provided by the Ministry of Agriculture. Swine sold for slaughtering are immunized with swine erysipelas serum before transport to packing plants. At the packing plants all diseased animals are isolated and observed until a determination can be made regarding their ultimate disposition. The prevention of diseases of animals that are transmissible to man is the concurrent responsibility of the Veterinary Department of the Ministry of Agriculture and the Department of Public Health of the Ministry of Welfare. Public Health and Veterinary officials inspect meat and animal products, dairy products, poultry products and seafoods.

12. Veterinary pharmaceutical and biological products come from various sources. Much of this material is produced by the Serum Institute. Before the Communists took over the country there were many privately owned plants producing these materials and there were sources in Germany, France and the UK. The Serum Institute is located three miles from the city of Riga and consists of two divisions -- medical and veterinary. The veterinary division is supervised by the head of the Department of Hygiene of the Faculty of Veterinary Medicine at the University of Latvia. This division has four laboratories and four experimental animal wards, and in 1947 was under the direction of Dr M Rolle. Swine erysipelas serum is prepared by the method of hyperimmunization of horses, and tuberculin is prepared by the Koch method. In addition to these materials, tetanus antitoxin, diphtheria antitoxin, T G brucella vaccine, rabies vaccine, smallpox vaccine, adrenalin and thyroxin were produced in the Serum Institute. The purity, quality and potency of these materials and of those from other sources are tested in the Serum Institute and in the Pasteur Institute of the University of Latvia.

- end -

[redacted] 25X1